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Eighteenth executive session
Geneva, 10 July 1998
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda and annotations

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

The Board may wish to adopt the provisional agenda in section I above, as approved by the Bureau and Coordinators.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(18)/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 2 Mid-term review

The Midrand Declaration states: "*to build on the political commitment of member States to the process initiated at this Conference and ensure its implementation, the President of UNCTAD IX should consider convening a special high-level review meeting two years prior to UNCTAD X*". The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 52/182 on international trade and development, welcomed the convening of a special high-level mid-term review meeting in 1998 which would contribute to the preparations of the tenth session of the Conference, to be held in Thailand in the year 2000.

At its sixteenth executive session, the Board launched the mid-term review process. In so doing, it agreed that Ambassador Benjelloun-Touimi (Morocco), Vice-President of the Board, would conduct the informal and formal work of the review and report the outcome to the executive session of the Board on 10 July 1998. The purpose of the review would be to determine to what extent the mandate established at Midrand in terms of work programmes and institutional reforms had been implemented; to identify what remained to be completed before UNCTAD X, including any adjustment that would need to be made to fulfil commitments made at Midrand; and to make recommendations on the work programme and agendas for the Board, the Commissions and expert meetings in the period leading to UNCTAD X. Ambassador Benjelloun will present the outcome of the informal and formal process of the Mid-term Review to the eighteenth executive session under this item.

In response to the General Assembly request that the process lead to a High-Level Meeting contributing to UNCTAD X, the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board includes an item on this (Item 3: High-level Mid-term Revew).

Documentation

In-session documentation

Item 3 UNCTAD's contribution to the UN-NADAF: UNCTAD's activities in favour of Africa (agreed conclusions 443 (XLIV))

The Trade and Development Board, at its forty-fourth session, in its agreed conclusions 443 (XLIV), invited the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to report to an executive session of the Board on activities undertaken by UNCTAD in favour of Africa. The report of the Secretary-General, contained in document TD/B/EX(18)/2, provides a perspective on the general thrust of research and analysis being undertaken by UNCTAD in its consideration of the development problematique in Africa, as well as a summary description of specific activities, including technical cooperation activities, in each sector. The report is also designed to provide information on how the secretariat of UNCTAD is responding to Board agreed conclusions 443 (XLIV).

Documentation

TD/B/EX(18)/2	UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for Africa in the 1990s: activities undertaken by UNCTAD in favour of Africa - Report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD

Item 4 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

A list of the 105 intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD is contained in TD/B/IGO LIST/2. The Board will be invited to consider an application received from the African Export Import Bank (TD/B/EX(18)/R.3).

Documentation

TD/B/IGO/LIST/2	List of IGOs in status with UNCTAD
TD/B/EX(18)/R.3	Application by the African Export Import Bank

(b) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

At present, there are 177 NGOs in status with UNCTAD, 95 in the General Category and 82 in the Special Category. A list of these is contained in TD/B/NGO/LIST/2 and Add.1. At its eighteenth executive session, the Board will be invited to consider an application from the Transnational Institute (TNI) (TD/B/EX(18)/R.2).

Documentation

TD/B/NGO/LIST/2 and Add.1	List of NGOs in status with UNCTAD
TD/B/EX(18)/R.2	Application by the Transnational Institute (TNI)

Inclusion of a national NGO in the Register in conformity with Board decision 43 (VII)

The Board will be informed that, following consultations with the member State concerned (Russian Federation), the Secretary-General of UNCTAD has included the Association of Financial and Industrial Groups of Russia in the Register of national non-governmental organizations provided for under Board decision 43 (VII).

Documentation

TD/B/EX(18)/L.1	Inclusion of a national non-governmental organization in the Register in conformity with decision 43 (VII) of the Trade and Development Board: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

(c) Designation of the President and Bureau of the forty-fifth session of the Trade and Development Board

In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall consist of 12 members (the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur), i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.

In accordance with the cycle of rotation, the President of the forty-fifth session of the Board shall be a representative of one of the States members in List A (Asia) and the Rapporteur a representative of one of the States in List B. The 10 Vice-Presidents shall therefore be as follows: 3 from List A (Africa/Asia); 3 from List B; 2 from List C; and 2 from List D. In addition to the above, the Board will be required to elect the Chairmen of Sessional Committees I and II.

Item 5 Report by the President of the Trade and Development Board on his informal consultations on:

(a) Guidelines and modalities for funds from savings resulting from improved overall cost-effectiveness for financing of experts

Paragraph 13 of the Report of the Secretary-General on "Analysis of Savings resulting from the improved overall cost effectiveness achieved pursuant to the ninth session of UNCTAD (A/52/898) refers to the agreement reached by the members of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and Programme Budget, which met from 2 to 4 May 1998, that in partial implementation of paragraph 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development", it is proposed to utilize part of the new resources, amounting to $1,088,000, to enhance the expertise of the deliberations of the expert meetings of the Commissions. The Working Party recommended that the President of the Board "undertake informal consultations, with the involvement of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and to be completed by 3 July 1998, on the establishment of guidelines and modalities, to be endorsed by the Board at its eighteenth executive session, for the distribution of the relevant funds".

Documentation

Oral report by the President of the Board

(b) Operational modalities of the Trust Fund to enhance participation of developing countries' experts in UNCTAD meetings

At its seventeenth executive session, the Trade and Development Board decided (decision 450(EX-17) informal consultations under the authority of the President of the Board should be held on the operational modalities of the trust fund to enhance participation of developing countries' experts in UNCTAD meetings in accordance with paragraph 114 of "A Partnership for Growth and Development", with a view to enabling the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to modify the operational modalities of the trust fund to include *inter alia* two windows, one for earmarked and one for non-earmarked contributions.

By the same decision, the President of the Trade and Development Board was requested to complete these informal consultations by 3 July 1998 so that the operational modalities can be endorsed by the Trade and Development Board at its eighteenth executive session.

Documentation

Oral report by the President of the Board

Item 6 Other business

Item 7 Report of the Board on its eighteenth session

The report of the Board will be completed under the authority of the Rapporteur. Pending the final report, a synoptic record of the proceedings of the session will be issued in advance.